 

**An Easter update from the OSFA President**

As previously advised, the commencement of the OSFA season has been postponed until May 30 in line with the recommendation from the AFL. This difficult decision was made in the best interests of our players and coaches, volunteers, supporters and the wider community, and based on the expert advice of Federal and State Governments, Health Authorities and the AFL.

Our intention remains to commence playing as soon as possible but given the seriousness of the Covid-19 virus this will not be until the authorities deem it safe to do so. Given the likely ongoing nature of current restrictions it seems unlikely that there would be any play before May 30, and it is quite possible that the postponement could continue into June. The AFL has convened a National Working Group which will make further recommendations regarding community football at the end of April.

With the current restrictions on group gatherings club training has also been suspended until further notice.

It has been great to see that clubs are reaching out to their members and encouraging them to stay connected. This is a worrying and stressful time for many and we should continue to do our best to identify and support individuals in need.

Many of our sponsors are also being challenged by this crisis and it is also great to see that clubs are acknowledging and supporting them. The OSFA would like to thank our naming rights sponsor, Murdoch Clarke Mortgage Fund – MCMF, beverage partner CUB, preferred sportswear supplier Icon, Wrest Point Casino, AFL Tas, and all club sponsors, for their continued support in this extraordinary environment.

Some good news that we shared with you recently was the successful nomination of Richmond Football Club stalwarts John and Helen Conway as Association Life Members. John’s and Helen’s commitment to their football club goes back to 2002, with John the Club President for the past 19 years, and Helen the Secretary for the past 17 years.

John and Helen have and continue to provide the core management capacity and capability to operate the Richmond Football Club. They have demonstrated an enormous ability to lead a community organisation, develop healthy relationships with key stakeholders, plan for the health and well-being of Club members and consider the best interests of the game in making strategic decisions.

John’s and Helen’s commitment to their Club goes well beyond any measurable contribution, theirs is an almost 20 year full time selfless investment to continually improve the culture, governance and functionality of the Club whilst dealing with the ‘ups’ and ‘downs’ of what transpires on any given Saturday during the winter. John and Helen have also been strong advocates of the OSFA, and their willing contributions to our Association have been significant.

John and Helen Conway are very worthy recipients of OSFA Life Membership and we welcome them into this select group. Helen also has the honour of being the first female to be recognised with OSFA Life Membership. Congratulations again John and Helen.

In closing, may I wish a healthy and happy Easter to our Old Scholars community in these uncertain times. Stay safe, stay home and look after each other.

Mark Heathcote

President

OSFA

 

   